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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP  
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Austria

DATE 25X1X6

SUBJECT North Tyrol Separatists

INFO. [REDACTED]

DIST. 14 January 1947

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PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN [REDACTED]

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1. Dr. Hans Blaas of the War Cripples' Association in Tyrol and central figure of the demonstration against Minister Dr. Gruber in Innsbruck on 27 September 1946 was in South Tyrol early in December 1946 and was [REDACTED] at the Hotel Greif in Bolzano on 9 December 1946. He is alleged to have had long talks with Dr. Tauber of the Demokratischer Verband (the anti-South Tyrolean People's Party organization) and with leading Trentiner autonomists. [REDACTED] Comment: A report distributed on 10 October 1946 states that Blaas, a leading member of the Tiroler Landsmannschaft and bitterly resentful of Gruber's South Tyrolean stand, advocates a separation of the Tyrol and joint autonomy with South Tyrol).

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2. Reports which have reached the Office for South Tyrol in Innsbruck, state that Blaas discussed with Tauber and the Trentiners the plan of the Tyroler Landsmannschaft and Heimabund for an autonomous Tyrol, stretching from Ala to Salsstein within the Italian State. It is believed that the Trentiners showed interest in the plan, which may account for their seeming reluctance to commit themselves on the South Tyrolean People's Party plan for collaboration between Bolzano and Trento. [REDACTED] Comment: For further information on North Tyrol separatists, [REDACTED]

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3. The fact that Blaas' visit to South Tyrol is known to have been sponsored by Landeshauptmann Weissgatterer has given rise to rumors in Innsbruck that Weissgatterer has joined the separatist group. (In this connection Dr. Abtgrism, father of Minister Dr. Gruber's wife is reported to have said: "How chaotic conditions are in Tyrol today may be gathered from the fact that Weissgatterer and Blaas have become firm friends".)
4. Dr. Oswald Peterlunger of the Ministry of Interior and Anton Huber of the Bauernbund are being mentioned in Innsbruck as new members of the separatist movement. It is further alleged that Monsignor Kolb, one of its more ardent (although restrained) supporters, joined the movement with the full consent of Innsbruck's Bishop, Dr. Rusch. Apparently considerable differences exist among the separatists, and Blaas is reported to be contemplating the founding of a second and rival Tiroler Landsmannschaft.

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SEE REVERSE FOR DECLASSIFICATION ACTION

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5. Anton Huber is the most interesting of the separatists. Almost unknown in Tyrolean politics, he is believed
- a) to have worked out his own autonomy project for North and South Tyrol,
  - b) to be in contact with the Russian Repatriation Commission in Innsbruck through a Russian agent who formerly penetrated the Gestapo on behalf of the Russian intelligence services.

This latter allegation has given rise to the theory that the Russians, in their desire to cause the disintegration of Austria, are behind the separatist movement in Tyrol.

6. Silvio Flor, until recently editor of the Communist newspaper Erneuerung in Bolzano, has been turned out of the Italian Communist party for sponsoring too energetically the South Tyrolean claim for a separate autonomy without Trentino.
7. A few days ago the Innsbruck police authorities called in local newspapermen and told them not to play up the affair of the forged schilling notes circulating in Tyrol, as this would hamper their investigations. After the conference one of the police officials told informant confidentially that it had been ascertained that the notes are being forged in South Tyrol under the auspices of the Russians.

25X1A6a [REDACTED] Comment: There is no doubt that Blaas has for long had pro-Russian sympathies. At one time he tried to obtain the leadership of the GP in Tyrol. He has close connections with certain Swiss newspapers and is generally held responsible for the anti-Cruber articles appearing in the Swiss press. The importance of the separatist movement in North Tyrol should not be overestimated. The fact that it is today attracting increasingly responsible support is due solely to the present catastrophic situation in Tyrol. In brief, it is a movement born of desperation which is likely to lose much of its significance once the Austrian situation is clarified and, above all, once there is a material improvement in the food situation.)

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